

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Claim Listing:**

1. (Currently amended) A system for implementing computer network services and applications, comprising:

a front-end component comprising more than one software application;

a back-end component comprising one or more software services; and

an abstraction layer component ~~operable to that~~ communicates with each of said more than one software application in said front-end component and each of said one or more software services in said back-end component, for providing said more than one application using at least one of said one or more services, wherein:

said abstraction layer component ~~is operable to~~ provides standardization of back end services such that each of said more than one software application in said front-end component accesses each of said one or more software services in said back-end component by communicating through said abstraction layer component, and wherein:

said abstraction layer component ~~is operable to~~ provides built-in entitlement identity management [[for]] that accepts a single sign on from a user and uses said single sign on to identify said user to each of said one or more software services and each of said more than one software application.

2. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide de-coupling of services provided by said back-end component.

3. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide de-coupling of said more than one application in said front-end component.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide system wide error reporting.
7. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a business integration component.
8. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a vendor connectivity component.
9. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a security component.
10. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a utility component.
11. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a back end connectivity component.
12. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component uses application templates to provide standardization of business services.
13. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide one or more standardized interfaces to back end services.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component is operable to provide one or more standardized interfaces to external consumers and providers.
16. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said abstraction layer component comprises a

single deployment platform.

17. (Currently amended) A system for linking more than one software application in a front-end component and one or more software services in a back-end component, comprising:

a vendor connectivity component;

a business integration component;

a security component, wherein said security component ~~is operable to provide~~ entitlement identity management [[for]] that accepts a single sign on from a user and uses said single sign on to identify said user to each of said more than one software application and each of said one or more software services;

a utility component; and

a back end connectivity component, wherein said back end connectivity component is ~~operable to enable~~ each of said more than one software application in said front-end component to access each of said one or more software services in said back-end component [[via]] by communicating through one standardized application program interface.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said vendor connectivity component is operable to standardize exposure of said applications to said services.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said vendor connectivity component is operable to provide a consistent abstraction between a user interface and a middle tier.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said vendor connectivity component is operable to use standardized headers to provide substantially seamless system management integration between a caller and said applications.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said vendor connectivity component is operable to provide automatically generated service entry points.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said vendor connectivity component is operable to provide service location and activation capabilities using one or more standard interfaces.

23. (Original) A system as in claim 22, wherein said one or more standard interfaces comprise a Universal Discovery Description and Integration interface.

24. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said business integration component is operable to provide call context information.

25. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said business integration component is operable to provide identity context information.

26. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said business integration component is operable to provide application context information.

27. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said security component is operable to provide distributed security.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said utility component is operable to enable said applications to access utilities using a standardized application program interface.

32. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said utility component is operable to provide centralized end-to-end system management with an ability to correlate information across a plurality of parameters.

33. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said utility component is operable to enable auditing at system boundaries to manage service level agreements and method level metering.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said back end connectivity component is operable to provide access to back end data sources without changing a back end system.

36. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein said back end connectivity component is operable to enable de-coupling of said applications from said services.